

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

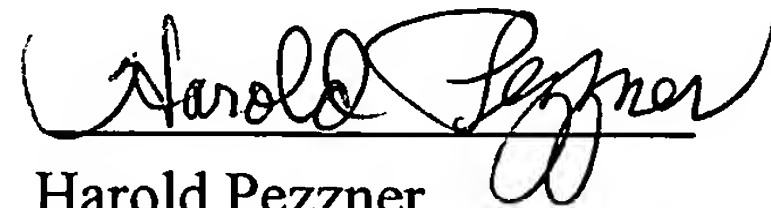
Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, and claim 1 is rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakimoto et al., U.S. Patent 6,532,853, in view of Meredith et al., U.S. Patent Application 2002/0152867, Ushiwata et al., U.S. Patent 5,424,294, Ito et al., U.S. Patent 5,357,834, and Peterson, U.S. Patent 2,317,553. However, the Examiner has kindly pointed out that claims 2-6 appear to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this, specification and claims 1 and 5 have been amended so as to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, by following the suggestions kindly provided by the Examiner. In addition, claims 2 and 3 are deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of amended 1 and original claims 2 and 3 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the

rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn, and the amended claim 1 should be allowable. It is further submitted that the amended claims 4-6 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 1 that is believed to be allowable.

After the amendment to the claim, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. 103a), of claims 1-6 are overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims 1 and 4-6 are in a condition for allowance and requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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